



Attorney Docket No. 240 P 028

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TC 1700

#14/B  
1082  
PATENT  
7/23/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application Of:  
RICHARD D. BLACKMORE and  
WILLIAM M. LEPOLA

07/24/2003 VDAY11 00000002 230280 09588407  
Examiner: Steven D. Maki  
Group Art Unit: 27407A  
FC:2202 01  
FC:2201 02  
42.00 DA  
42.00 DA

**REPLY TO DECEMBER 5, 2002 OFFICE ACTION**

MAIL STOP FEE AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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JUN 16 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R370

Dear Sir:

A shortened statutory period of three months for filing this Reply without extension was set to expire on March 5, 2003. However, the attached Petition for Three Month Extension of Time and requisite fee make a response due by June 5, 2003. Therefore, this Reply is timely filed. Reconsideration of the referenced application, including all pending claims, is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

Note, this Amendment and Reply is being submitted in a form required under the amended rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121. Accordingly, one (1) sheet containing the marked-up claims corresponding to the substituted claims, is attached hereto as Attachment A.

## AMENDMENTS

### In the "CLAIMS":

1. (Twice Amended) An inflatable heating device comprising

a generally cylindrical body having an inner surface and an outer surface, said body including a flexible matrix and a plurality of nonmetallic, electrically conductive fibers embedded within said flexible matrix, said flexible matrix being cured to a stable elastomeric state by electrical